# Promoting International Exchange and Cooperation: the Medical Library Association's Librarians Without Borders® Program

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How does MLA's program differ from Librarians Without Borders, Canada and Libraries Without Borders/Bibliothèques sans frontières?



# Librarians Without Borders (Canada)

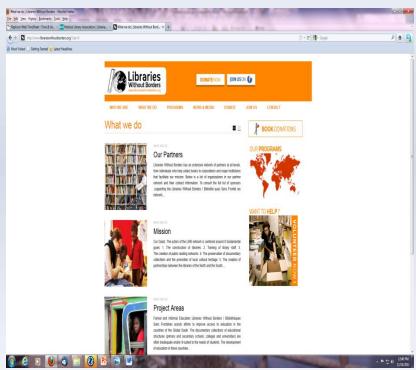
- Build sustainable libraries and support librarians in serving these populations.
- Work with five universities in Canada.
- Currently working in Guatemala.





### Libraries Without Borders/Bibliothèques sans frontières

- Facilitate the growth of libraries in developing countries in Africa, Asia and the Americas.
- Promote and safeguard local heritage and knowledge.
- Take book donations.
- Train staff to manage libraries and their programs.





www.mlanet.org/resources/global/

Year	Evolution of Program
1898	MLA founded as an international organization by US and Canadian proponents
1934	MLA joined IFLA
1947	MLA worked with UNESCO to assist WWII ravaged libraries
1948	Committee on International and National Cooperation (now International Cooperation Section) established
1963	Cunningham International Fellowship established
1980	Program of bilateral agreements with sister associations established
1999	International Cooperation Section launched sister library program
2005	Librarians Without Borders® Global Strategic Initiative established
2005	Medical Library Disaster Relief Fund established
2007	Librarians Without Borders® E-Library Training Program established
2008	Librarians Without Borders® Grant established
2009	Librarians Without Borders® Advisory Committee established Librarian
2011	Librarians Without Borders® Job Exchange Program in process

"Our association has always been a very internationally minded group. Years ago, we discussed the idea of adding the word "American" to our name. We decided against it because membership was not then, and is not now, limited to any one country."

MLA President Eileen Cunningham, 1948 Presidential Address



- MLA believes that the key elements in improved health for all peoples are the ability of each nation to strengthen and build health sciences information capacity through qualified health sciences librarians, implementation of supporting technological infrastructure, and access to quality information.
- MLA supports capacity building programs at the association, section, chapter, and individual member areas.
- MLA believes that building capacity will be most effective and long-lasting when partnerships are created with groups sharing similar goals, particularly partnerships with international agencies where shared goals intersect with available expertise and infrastructure.

MLA Strategic Statement 2005



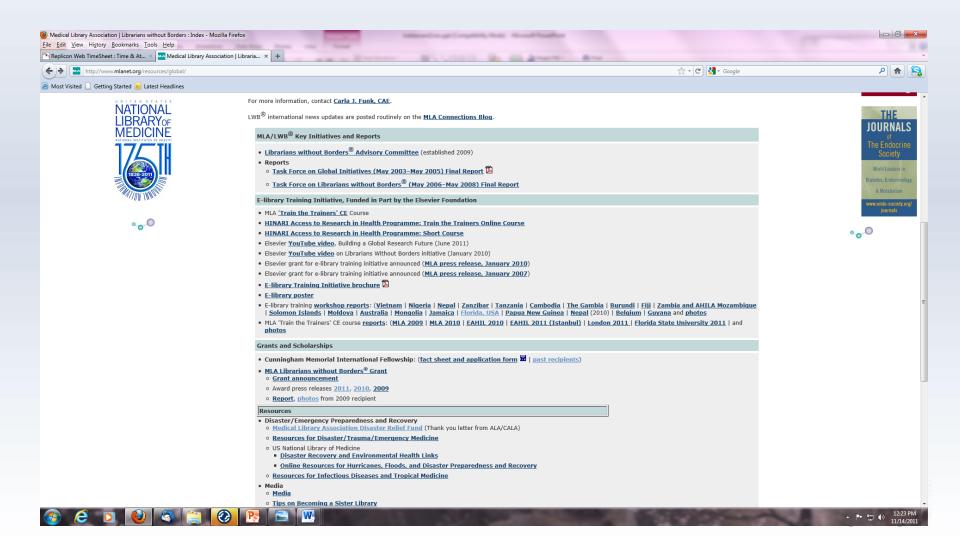
## GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS/PROGRAMS

- LIBRARIANS WITHOUT BORDERS® E-LIBRARY TRAINING
- FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS
- BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER LIS GROUPS
- MEDICAL LIBRARY DISASTER RELIEF FUND
- SISTER LIBRARY PROGRAM
- JOB EXCHANGE





http://www.mlanet.org/resources/global

















#### **E-Library Training Initiative Partners**

#### Funded by the Elsevier Foundation; Coordinated by Lenny Rhine

- **AGORA** Access to Global Online Research in Agriculture
- **AHILA** Association for Health Information and Libraries in Africa
- **CISMI-** Center for Scientific and Medical Information in Hanoi
- **COSTECH** Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology
- **DANIDA** Denmark's development assistance to developing countries program

#### **ELSEVIER FOUNDATION**

- **FAO** Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
- **HINARI** Health InterNetwork Access to Research Program
- ICML- International Congress on Medical Librarianship
- **INASP-** International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publications
- **ISABU-** L'Institut des Sciences Agronomiques du Burundi

- ITOCA- Information Training and Outreach Centre for Africa
- NHEICC- National Health, Education, Information and Communication Center, Nepal
- NIPH- National Institute for Public Health, Cambodia
- OARE- Online Access to Research in the Environment
- PAHO- Pan American Health Organization
- POLHN- Pacific Open Health Learning Net
- **UNEP-** United Nations Environment Programme
- WHO- World Health Organization
- WHO/AFRO- Regional Office for Africa
- WHO/Europe- Regional Office for Europe
- **WHO/SEARO** Regional Office of South East Asia
- WHO/WPRO- Regional Office for the Western Pacific

# MLA Librarians Without Borders® Fellowships and Awards

http://www.mlanet.org/awards/grants/

#### \*Cunningham Memorial Fellowship\*

First awarded in 1973

1979 Awardee- Catherine Pi-Ying Yang from Taiwan

Collaborate with European Association of Health Information Librarians, Association for Health Information and Libraries in Africa, and others to promote the fellowships.

Now a three week fellowship that funds Fellow to attend MLA's annual meeting and two other library sites for study.

For 2013, Cunningham grants will be awarded to attend the International Congress on Medical Librarianship in Boston, MA



#### Fellowships and Awards

#### \*MLA Librarians Without Borders ® Grant

Funded by FlySheet Med-Informatics, Inc., Taiwan. Thank you to Min-Lin Fang and Peggy Liu.

2009 Grace Ajuwon, University of Ibadan, Nigeria for purchase of books and computers

2010 Agnes Chikonzo, University of Zimbabwe to support information literacy training

2011 Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences to provide access to HINARI resources to Catholic University of Santa Maria, Arequipa, Peru





#### Medical Library Disaster Relief Fund

http://www.mlanet.org/resources/global/mla\_drf.html

- Began in 2005 to help U.S. medical libraries after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita to restore services.
- Came out of MLA's work with the U.S. Library
  Associations' Library Disaster Relief Fund to help
  Asian libraries after the 2005 earthquake and tsunami.
- Latest grant to Chinese medical libraries to help after the 2009 earthquake- partnered with the Chinese American Librarians Association with this grant.
- Continue to seek grant giving opportunities for Haiti medical libraries.



### \*Bilateral Agreements\*

http://www.mlanet.org/resources/global/lwb\_partnerships.html

AGMB AHILA CHLA/ABSC EAHIL KMLA NG-MLA

#### **Basics**

- Publications exchange
- Official representation
- Member fees for annual conferences/CE
- Arrange visits for each other's members

#### Results

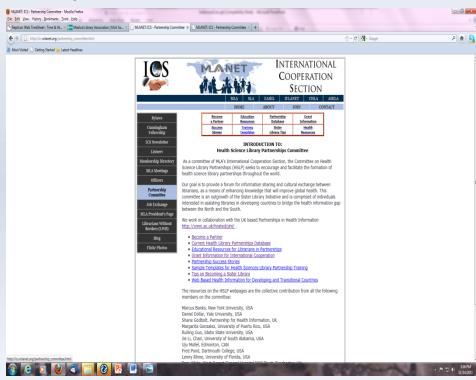
- Joint conferences with CHLA/ABSC
- Planned job exchange program with KMLA
- AHIP membership for associations' members at MLA member rates



# MLA/ICS HEALTH SCIENCES LIBRARY PARTNERSHIPS

http://ics.mlanet.org/partnership\_committee.html

- Former International Cooperation Section's Sister Library Project
- Work with UK based Partnerships in Health Information
- Lists resources, grants, database, training and other tips



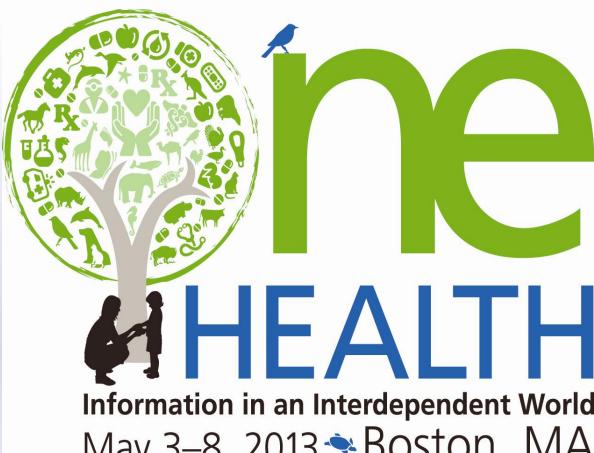


**International Meeting** MLA, ICML, ICAHIS, and ICLC May 3-8, 2013 Boston, MA

MLA through the joint **National Planning** Committee will be awarding Cunningham grants for the 2013 meeting.

Applications due on April 1, 2012.

http://www.mlanet.org/ awards/grants/



May 3–8, 2013 → Boston, MA



Medical Library Association ★ www.mlanet.org



#### CONCLUSION

- \*Resulted in Closer Relationships with Existing Partners
- \*Identified New Opportunities for Partnerships
- \*Given Medical Librarians Training Opportunities in U.S. and in Their Home Countries
- \*Given Everyone the Opportunity to Share Ideas
- \*Strategic & Global -- MLA's Commitment for the Long-Term



# **THANK YOU!!**

QUESTIONS?

